

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 59.

Please amend claims 33, 50, 61, and 62 as set forth below:

33. A filtering face mask that comprises:

- (a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and
- (b) an exhalation valve that is attached to the mask body, the exhalation valve

comprising:

- (1) a valve seat that comprises:

- (i) a seal surface;
 - (ii) an orifice that is circumscribed by the seal surface; and
 - (iii) a flap-retaining surface; and

(2) a single flexible flap that has a stationary portion and one free portion and first and second opposing ends, the first end of the single flexible flap being associated with the stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the second end being associated with the free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the second end also being located below the first end when the filtering face mask is worn on a person, the flexible flap being positioned on the valve seat such that the flap is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith when a fluid is not passing through the orifice; and

- (3) a valve cover that is disposed over the valve seat and that comprises a surface that mechanically holds the flexible flap against the flap-retaining surface.

50. The filtering face mask of claim 33, wherein the stationary portion of the flexible flap includes about 10 to 25 percent of the total circumferential edge of the flexible flap, with the remaining 75 to 90 percent being free to be lifted from the seal surface.

61. The filtering face mask of claim 33, wherein the valve cover has an opening that is disposed directly in the path of fluid flow when the free portion of the flexible flap is lifted from the seal surface during an exhalation.

62. The filtering face mask of claim 61, wherein the opening in the valve cover is approximately parallel to the path traced by the second end of the flexible flap during its opening and closing.

Kindly add claims 66 and 67 to this application.

67. A filtering face mask that comprises:

- (a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and
- (b) an exhalation valve that is attached to the mask body, the exhalation valve comprising:
 - (1) a valve seat that comprises:
 - (i) a seal surface;
 - (ii) an orifice that is surrounded by the seal surface; and
 - (iii) a flap-retaining surface; and
 - (2) a single flexible flap that has a stationary portion and a free portion and a peripheral edge that includes a stationary segment and a free segment, the stationary segment of the peripheral edge being associated with the stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the free segment being associated with the free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the free segment also being located below the stationary segment when the filtering face mask is worn on a person and viewed from the front, the flexible flap being positioned on the valve seat such that the flap is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith when a fluid is not passing through the orifice; and
 - (3) a valve cover that is disposed over the valve seat and that comprises a surface that mechanically holds the flexible flap against the flap-retaining surface.

67. The filtering face mask of claim 66, wherein the valve cover is secured to the valve seat by a friction fit to a wall of the valve seat.